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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000183

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP - TRAMSEY  
SYDNEY FOR TSA - KKOUTSIS  
FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHDC FOR TSA HQ, TSA LOS ANGELES

E.O. 12985: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [FAIR](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR HARRIS AND  
WILLIAMS, MARCH 28 - APRIL 2

REF: SYDNEY 154

[11.](#) (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to  
TSA employees Francis E. Harris and Lisa A. Williams to

SIPDIS

travel to Christchurch, New Zealand from March 28 - April  
2, 2005. The purpose of this visit is to conduct  
inspections of the air carriers subject to U.S.  
regulations.

[12.](#) (U) As requested, Embassy has made hotel reservations  
at the Holiday Inn City Centre, Cashel and High Street,  
Christchurch, tel. +64-3-365-888, at the rate of NZD  
\$166/night for 4 nights, and NZD \$203 for the 5th night.  
Rates do not include 12.5% general service tax.  
Confirmation numbers are 64435317 (Harris) and 64435952  
(Williams).

[13.](#) (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Economic Officer Joy  
Yamamoto. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6182  
Fax: 644-472-3537  
Cell: 027-446-4467  
E-mail: YamamotoJO@state.gov

[14.](#) (SBU) All TDY visitors to Embassy Wellington are  
required to report to the Regional Security Office for a  
security briefing if they have not completed an approved  
overseas personal security-training course.

[15.](#) (U) Visitors should use local taxi service, which is  
generally safe, reliable and frequent. Taxi fare from the  
airport to downtown Christchurch hotels is approximately  
NZD \$35.00.

[16.](#) (U) Travelers can exchange currency at the airport  
upon arrival and ATM machines are readily available  
throughout New Zealand. Check cashing privileges at the  
Embassy are restricted to traveler's checks only up to USD  
\$300.00. Personal checks will not be accepted.

[17.](#) (SBU) Biosecurity Fines:

The Government of New Zealand instituted fines for non-  
declared biosecurity hazards on travelers entering New  
Zealand with undeclared plant, animal or food material.  
Travelers found carrying these undeclared items will be  
immediately fined NZD \$200.00 (USD \$150.00). Biosecurity  
is a serious issue in New Zealand and fines will be  
administered immediately and without warnings.

[18.](#) (SBU) Security Information:

a. (SBU) All U.S. citizen personnel serving under the  
Chief of Mission authority in a temporary status of 30  
days or more must complete appropriate overseas personal  
security training prior to travel (04 State 66580).  
Employees who have completed the Security Overseas Seminar  
course at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) after June  
1, 2000, meet this requirement. All other TDY personnel  
must either (1) complete the approved seminar at FSI  
entitled "Serving Abroad for Families and Employees"  
(SAFE), or (2) have their agency certify to the Department  
of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security that the employee  
has undergone equivalent security training. The contact  
for this training is Assistant Director for Training at  
(703) 205-2617. Country clearance will not be granted for  
any traveler with planned TDY in excess of 30 days if this  
information is not stated/certified. POC for additional  
information is RSO Wellington.

b. (SBU) The U.S. Mission in New Zealand currently rates  
the threat from transnational and indigenous terrorism as  
low. There are no terrorist groups or support groups  
believed to be operating in New Zealand at this time. In  
light of the worldwide security alert all visitors should  
heighten their security awareness and report any unusual

incidents to the Regional Security Officer.

c. (SBU) Anonymous telephonic threats and obscure threat mail have occasionally targeted U.S. diplomatic missions in New Zealand. In response to U.S. policies and actions, various groups in New Zealand have demonstrated occasionally at the Embassy in Wellington and at the Consulate in Auckland. These demonstrations are usually small and are peacefully conducted. During these demonstrations, the host country police and protective services normally provide adequate protection to the Embassy and Consulate.

d. (SBU) New Zealand is considered a medium threat crime environment. As such, Wellington and Auckland have experienced an increase in violent and petty crimes, but they are usually non-confrontational in nature. However, home invasion robberies and assaults, once very rare, are becoming more frequent. Burglaries and thefts occur countrywide but primarily in the large cities of Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, and visitors should be especially aware that street crime, such as scams and pickpockets, is a daily occurrence in these cities. Common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

e. (SBU) Generally, New Zealand does not play a significant role in the world drug situation; however, evidence indicates that New Zealand has been utilized as a transit point for shipments of Ecstasy, Heroin and Cocaine to Australia. The most abused drugs in New Zealand are locally produced methamphetamine and cannabis. There have been increased amounts of lab seizures and violent crime associated with groups attempting to control this market.

f. (U) All forms of public transportation are generally safe at all times of the day; however, at night visitors should use common sense precautions so as not to become a target of opportunity.

g. (U) The traffic situation in Auckland can be difficult with a moderate amount of congestion. Wellington and Christchurch traffic is significantly better; however, during rush hour moderate delays can be expected. Visitors are advised that traffic drives on the left-hand side of the road. Visitors are advised that traffic accidents are common and that it is safe to pull over so that police may take an accident report. However, visitors who experience hostility or anti-American sentiment should depart the scene immediately and notify the RSO.

h. (SBU) Travelers intending to bring and use any USG provided electronic or photographic equipment must contact the RSO prior to introducing that equipment into the Chancery. Personal electronic or photographic equipment is not permitted in the Chancery. Only in severely limited cases will a notebook or laptop computer be permitted to be used in the Chancery.

i. (U) Precautions should also be taken to not discuss sensitive or classified information outside secure environments or over unsecured and/or cellular telephones, and to securely safeguard classified or sensitive information at the Chancery and not at hotels or residences.

j. (U) Visitors should also be aware of the State Department's Consular Information sheet for New Zealand and the most recent Worldwide Caution Public Announcements, which are available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>

k. (U) In essence, visitors to New Zealand must exercise appropriate caution and be alert to their surroundings with regard to their personal security. Suspicious incidents/activities should be reported to RSO Wellington (Telephone (64)(4) 462-6000, 24 hours/day).

Swindells